

# Mutual Aid Under Attack: a conversation with the AVL Park Defendants



The Final Straw Radio  
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This week on TFSR, we are presenting a conversation with three defendants who are in an ongoing legal battle with the city of Asheville. This group is collectively known as the Asheville Park defendants and is made up of 15 people, three of whom are speaking today. They are all facing felony littering charges in connection with a demonstration in December of 2021 against a targeted camp sweep in a local park adjacent to the downtown district. For this interview, we will talk about their case, the issue of the mistreatment of houseless people generally, camp sweeps and what they mean specifically, how the charge of felony littering is often deployed by the courts, the nationwide crackdown on mutual aid, their own activisms, and how to keep in touch with this situation and support the 15 defendants. You can read all about their case and keep up with this ongoing situation at **[avlsolidarity.noblogs.org](https://avlsolidarity.noblogs.org)**.

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**Elsa:** My name is Elsa, and I have been involved in mutual aid in the area for, gosh, about a year and a half now, I guess? I'm also pretty heavily involved in the anti-war movement in the area.

**Nic:** I'm Nic, my pronouns are they/them. I'm pretty like new to the movement. Honestly, I don't, I don't know what political affiliations I would call myself...just...fuck all the fucked shit, just as it is. That's it.

**Ant:** Wow, Nic, I want that on a t-shirt.

My name is Ant, my pronouns are they/them. Yeah, just political affiliation wise have been involved in mutual aid here in Asheville, and just generally, anti-state, anti-capitalist abolitionist.

**TFSR:** Hell yeah, thank you all so much. So we're here to talk about an ongoing kind of legal situation that y'all are very unfortunately being made to be caught up in. To begin with, will you talk a little bit about the activism you were doing prior to your arrests, and what precipitated those arrests?

**A:** So first, I just want to say that the voices here, there's three of us, but there are 15 people implicated in all of this. So everything that we say here is, for the most part, representative of the group, but also reflects our own personal opinions. So, take that for what it is. But the group, the larger group of 15 of us, really range from a lot of activism experience, all of us are fairly new to the scene in particular here in Asheville. But there are some of us that have been doing this for a while and have put in a lot of work.

But most of us, well, all of us for sure, are involved in mutual aid in Asheville. We are part of Asheville Survival Program, which is a mutual aid organization here that's been around for three years now, at this point, since the start of the pandemic, organizing to do food distribution in the local parks. We have a free store that is in a nearby neighborhood that provides groceries and grocery deliveries to folks [for free]. But all of us are united around just solidarity with the houseless folks that are in our community, which is kind of like what brought us into the situation that we're in is the work that we've been doing mostly for that.

**TFSR:** Could you talk a little bit more about the direct support you have been doing with the houseless folks in Asheville?

**N:** I can say a little bit about that, because I wanted to add on to what Ant was saying. They talked a bit about the Free Store, there's also a part of the collective of streetside, which has been going on for - I don't have the whole history, but as long as the Free Store has been open, since the beginning of the pandemic. So it's like two and a half, almost three years, I think? And that includes folks doing gear distribution - so tents, blankets, sleeping bags - at Aston Park, every weekend. We provide coffee and food every weekend. And I think streetside has been a very big deal of literally having it be like, the start of creating a community and connection with people who are living in the streets. Because how are you going to actually make connections with people if you don't show up and get to know people and talk with them? And also provide resources?

**E:** We also do sometimes respond to immediate asks. Like, you know, if somebody runs into somebody whose tent that got destroyed or something, then we can do emergency asks of like, "Hey, I just ran into this person who's in crisis, can we get together some resources?" That type of stuff.

**TFSR:** That's awesome. That all sounds like really, really important work. And also it sounds like a lot of work. And, you know, I just wanted to like name that.

**The next question that I had was... I would really love to talk a little bit about homelessness in Asheville because like many, many places here, I guess in this so-called country it's an escalating concern and an escalating situation that like a lot of people are faced with. From either your direct experience or from knowledge you've gleaned from elsewhere, would you speak on this and the elements which have made homelessness a more present reality for lots and lots of people?**

**A:** Well, what a question. Yeah, Asheville itself has been really facing gentrification a lot lately, the housing market here is incredibly challenging. A lot of rental homes and things that were short term rentals, rental homes have mostly been at this point converted into vacation rentals and Airbnb's. Because Asheville itself has kind of made a name for itself as a tourist town, and tourism has just really forced its way into the way of life in Asheville. And the local city government and local businesses are really focused a lot on tourism, at this point, at the detriment of people that are living here. What's ended up happening is that like a combination of not

having any housing and a lack of support systems for folks that are facing housing issues, or just in general, the lack of support systems that are like provided by the state has just made homelessness a really, really intense issue here.

On top of that -- in combination with there not really being any available housing, because of that tourism based focus -- the city has kind of made it a point to, what feels like, erase the existence of homeless people here in the city. Basically cover it up and make the city look good for the people coming in from out of town. What that has meant is that they're increasing camp sweeps. They did I think 26 in this past year. The Asheville Police Department has really focused a lot on being present at these camps. A couple of recent presentations from members of the police department have really linked homeless encampments to the violent crime that we're seeing in the area. Which is a narrative that, honestly is super not true and has basically taken advantage of a manipulation of a data set in a way that creates this narrative that the violence and the crime that is present is a result of the homeless population, which is just not true. So yeah, it's fucking tough being here.

**TFSR: And that sounds like it's such a rough and manipulative line that I see being drawn here on the part of the government and the part of the business owners for the most part. So yeah, thank you for giving voice to that. You said that there had been 26 camp sweeps this year. Is that 2022 alone?**

**A:** Sorry, that is within 2021.

**TFSR: Oh okay.**

**A:** Yeah, I forgot that it was 2022. Yeah, I believe it's been 26 since January of 2021, up until the end of this month [May 2022].

**TFSR: And has the frequency of the camp sweeps, has that gone up in recent years?**

**E:** Absolutely. Yeah, it used to be that campers would get a notice of seven days to leave their site. They now have 24 hours and sometimes not even that long. There used to not be anti-camping legislation on the books for town government, for city government. Now there's like actual anti-camp-

ing legislation. I think it came about in like 2010ish, like after the Occupy Movement, if I remember correctly.

**N:** Also to add to the number of sweeps, what Elsa and Ant had said earlier, it was for seven days, and then after all this bullshit, they were like, “Oop! We’re gonna like just change the policy.” Which by the way, like, fuck cops and they had this policy of it being seven days and they were able to like change this policy down to like 24-48 hours, whatever, without telling people about it because it didn’t require any type of budgeting changes. So they were able just to be like, “Oh, we’re just gonna make this policy change,” even though they don’t fucking abide by that. And even now, like Elsa said, they don’t even do the 24 hours, or the seven days, they never did any of that. I think it was like a week or two ago that they had swept another encampment of like 20 folks or so. And the 26 encampment sweeps that have been recorded and talked about specifically by, that I’ve seen, from Asheville Free Press, those are the ones that we hear about, or that there’s video or something. But that also doesn’t include the ones that we don’t hear about, or that we hear about weeks after, because then folks are finally able to be reconnected. I’m sure it’s more than 26 and it fucking sucks.

**TFSR:** **Indeed, I don’t want to harp on this too much because, like, I think that lots of folks know what the mechanics of a camp sweep are. But for anybody who isn’t familiar with this term, or isn’t familiar with, like, how the cops usually roll in situations like that, could you describe what typically happens in a camp sweep?**

**A:** Yeah, totally. It definitely depends on the location of the camp. Something that has come about a couple of times, particularly here in Asheville, is a dual jurisdiction, or like a question of jurisdiction of where these camps are actually located, whether it’s on city property, or whether it’s on DOT, Department of Transportation property. Depending on where that is it can look a little different, but it can range from the cops showing up and be like, “you gotta go, get all your shit”, or something that we’ve seen at other larger sweeps is them bringing in heavy machinery, like bulldozers, and just showing up with this equipment and telling people that they need to leave. For the folks that aren’t there and able to get their things, they are taking these bulldozers and literally leveling the camps, like people’s personal belongings and everything, with a bulldozer. Which is just

absurd. Because if the people aren't there to collect their things, they're just taking it and destroying it. Honestly it's violent. And it's heartbreaking.

**E:** They also will sometimes try to use nonprofits that are supposedly there to support those communities to like, help push people out, which is really messed up and weird.

**TFSR:** **Could you say a little bit more about that? I mean, I absolutely don't doubt that this happens, like this sounds exactly like something they would do, I just would love to hear a little bit more about that.**

**E:** It's like, they'll try to say "Oh, we're gonna help you figure out somewhere to go", or "we're gonna do this or that" and there's not really a lot of follow through. They might put people up in a hotel for a little while, and then suddenly that hotel room is just gone and there's no support. Like there's no acknowledgement that this is a long term thing that people struggle with, not just something that you can magically fix by putting somebody in a hotel room for a few days. They will try to have these social service organizations come in under the guise of caring, and sort of back the cops up in sort of a gaslighty, weird way that just messes with people. I think it makes it hard for people to feel like they get any support, because it's hard for them to trust the organizations that are supposed to be there, as you know, support organizations.

**TFSR:** **Thank you so much for going into that. I think that's a really important kind of thing to keep in mind when interfacing with this issue, it's not only the cops, like the cops do a lot, but it's also like the NGOs and the nonprofits who are complicit in this. So thank you for like teasing that out a little bit.**

**So, I feel like we could talk about the issue of homelessness and houselessness for a really long time, so I don't want to like get us too in the weeds here. But I'd love to like talk a little bit about y'all's arrest and what was happening at the at the moment or at the time. Would you talk about the circumstances surrounding y'all's arrest, you three and the other, did you say 12 people?**

**N:** Yeah, 15 people. I don't know if you had anything more to say, but I can start there.

**TFSR: Oh, no, no, yeah. Like, I'd love to hear- I mean, I wouldn't love to - but you know, would you talk about that a little bit?**

**N:** Yeah. When I think about how this started, I really remember the total fear that waved over the community, when people we know started receiving door knocks at like, oh my gosh I don't remember when they started, like maybe January people started receiving door knocks? And some folks have started getting picked up at work. Because we were trying to figure out what the hell was going on? And we heard...not stories, because it's true, but of folks who were getting arrested or found at work, and it's like, "oh, we don't know these people." Some folks were even getting picked up from their cars, like getting pulled over. And then, for me, personally, I had found out that there is a warrant out for my arrest. And I was just freaked out, like, "oh, when when is it going to be my moment that a cop is going to come knock on my door and scare my family and me?" Or, like, "when am I going to get picked up at work and have myself be completely villainized and made of a scene?"

So I just remembered that, whenever we talk about the beginning I'm like, "oh, that whole fear" because it was weeks of just being terrified no matter where I went, wherever people went. Yeah, if someone else wants to jump on, I'm getting teary.

**TFSR: I'm so sorry. That is fucking terrible. I'm so fucking sorry that y'all had to go through that.**

**A:** Yeah, the arrest period was pretty crazy. I just want to say -- well, first of all, side note, I love you Nic --

**N:** [giggles with appreciation]

**A:** -- I'm glad we're not dealing with that anymore. Yeah, all of this...did you kind of want us to talk about, like, the events that are surrounding these charges? Is that kind of what you're asking about?

**TFSR: Yeah, yeah. As much as you can say.**

**A:** Cool. Yeah. So just like narrative narrative wise, at the end of December there was an event held in the city that was made to bring attention to kind of the issues that we've been discussing up into this point. Basically,



overall, the way that the city has been handling homelessness in Asheville. And it was really just drawing to attention to something that we have really been focusing on a lot, which is the issue of safe sanctuary camping. Basically asking the city to provide a space for people who want to camp, to camp and do it safely and do it in a way that has infrastructure for hygiene, like port-a-potties, infrastructure for trash collection and disposal and just overall just a place for people to be able to be outside, living outside in a camp community. Which is something that has really been coming up more and more with these sweeps.

And also this issue really got brought up a lot in the December months and things because of a lack of just overall shelter options for people who are living on the streets who are wanting a place to be inside during colder weather. And as of this point the city has not really provided a lot of infrastructure for shelters in “cold purple”, which is basically nights when the temperature drops below freezing, there’s supposed to be places for people to be able to go inside so that they don’t experience severe injuries as a result of the cold. And yeah, a lot of that kind of got brought up in the wintertime. A lot of people in the community started opening up their own shelters, like Trinity Church has done a lot of that work on their own. And really just to make up for the fact that the city has not been like doing anything to provide resources to people.

So, there was an event in December that was targeted on drawing attention to the lack of “code purple” shelters, the lack of a sanctuary camping infrastructure. And also it was just kind of like an event for people in the community to come together and share space with one another and bond with one another. Like Nic was talking about before, just like being in a park with friends. So that was something that happened in December. And as a result of those events that stemmed to these charges, where the charges at this point are associated with a code for “felony littering” or “aiding and abetting felony littering”. And I’m pretty sure I can, yeah, this is all stuff that’s on arrest warrants. Nic and Elsa, also, if something sounds not right, please chime in. But the arrest warrants all have a citation that an amount of trash was left in a city park exceeding 500 pounds, which is the amount at which it becomes a felony offense. So each of us have been served with arrest warrants that are either directly for the felony littering or aiding and abetting that felony.

**E:** Also the arrests happened in bunches. There was an initial group that received arrest warrants. And then there was a pause, and then there were

more. And for me personally, I thought that it was all done, I thought all of the warrants had happened, because people were starting to get court dates. And then the day after my birthday I received a letter stating that I was banned from city parks for a felony littering charge. I hadn't even been made aware of the fact that I had a warrant, nothing had been communicated to me, this just showed up at my house. And I made the decision to self-surrender, as well as the other two people that received letters around the time I did. And so it was very, it was very weird, and it was very jarring. Because it was like, two months after the initial activity had started. It was very weird.

**TFSR: Yeah, that all sounds like super disorienting and really frightening. And also “felony littering” just sounds like something that was cooked up by a neo-liberal nightmare mind, you know? [scoffs] Do you all know anything about how that charge is usually weaponized against folks?**

**N:** From what one of our lawyers has said, and from what I've heard...well first off the felony littering is really ridiculous. Asheville Free Press had done some research and saw that they have not used this type of charge in over a decade. So I'm like, “Yeah, y'all totally just brought it out of your ass”. But from what it was explained, and from what I heard from lawyers, is that it can be used for either businesses and commercial dumping, if they're just throwing shit where they just shouldn't be. That's one example.

And then from what I was reading a little bit earlier today, it could also be used for people who are throwing their trash from home into a ravine or into a ditch or, I don't know, any other nature part. And I guess doing so consistently? Because I think about like 500 pounds, how much home trash you got? But you know. And then it also clicks a little bit more in my head of, like, commercial businesses just polluting and throwing their shit in ravines and ditches.

**TFSR: Yeah, thank you for speaking to that. I could see it being like one of those, you know, coded charges that they employ for their own reasons or whatever. So, thanks for speaking on that.**

**E:** Yeah. From what I understand. It also is something that local municipalities like to leverage against activists specifically.

**TFSR: I see. I see, I suspected as much! [laughs at the absurdity of it all] Oh god.**

**A:** Yeah, and like, to that specifically, a narrative that we definitely want to share is that employing a felony littering charge in this way when it's not something like a corporation dumping all their garbage in a river, is an attack on mutual aid in the city. It's an attack on the work that's being done. It's literally an act of state repression, because it is just them choosing a charge that technically maybe makes sense in their mind and employing it in a way that is completely unorthodox, for the most part.

**TFSR: Indeed. And I'd actually really love to talk about the criminalization of mutual aid, because that seems like it is 100% a factor here. Can you talk a little bit more about what kinds of threats does this legal situation pose to mutual aid, not just in Asheville, but, you know, all over the place?**

**A:** Yeah, I think, you know, this is something that is not a new issue, that there have been organizations like across the US, across other countries as well, that have been engaging in mutual aid and have come across state repression in some way in the form of charges that make no sense or, just in general trying to make the work hard. Because the goal of mutual aid is really to challenge existing society, and it is based on a model of community care, it is based on people looking out for one another, and people meeting each other's needs. And that is a system that exists without the state. And so as a result, the state feels threatened by that and so they find opportunities like this one to repress that, because their existence is being threatened by it.

In this instance, in particular, Asheville, with not just this, but other things have come out that have really just felt like direct targets on mutual aid efforts. Something that came up a couple of months ago was the city was entertaining the idea of an ordinance that would ban food sharing in public parks -- basically they were trying to criminalize being able to come to the park and share food with people. Which, honestly, when you say it out loud just seems ridiculous. But that, coupled with these charges, just really kind of paints a narrative of the city targeting these efforts of care because they're feeling threatened. [That] is my conjecture at least.

And then on top of that, the park ban that Nic mentioned before,

by issuing bans to the folks that have received these charges -- despite the fact that they have not been convicted, this is like, an active criminal thing, nothing has been cited -- there is still this ban, which basically takes 15 folks and prevents them from being in public parks. Which is a place that they know that this food sharing is happening, that they know that mutual aid is occurring. The more that you kind of tie it all together, the more it seems like, yeah, just a really fucked up narrative, I guess.

**TFSR: It also makes me think of, just a complete sort of municipal, or whatever, government unwillingness in any way, approach the phenomenon of homelessness in a way that's compassionate, or creative, or pro-human, or anything like that. I think that the more I look at cities' responses to people who are homeless, the more I'm just like, "you have no other wish then for folks to just simply disappear," you know? Which is just like, I mean, I'm not like expecting compassionate government**

N: [giggles in agreement]

**TFSR: Because I am not wired that way. Maybe that's too cynical I have no idea, but [inhales deeply] it's just like come on, you know? That to me is also a huge, huge issue.**

E: Yeah. You know, to tie the tourist industry to the attack on mutual aid, literally the cops are encouraged by city council and the mayor to make the folks that are living on the streets disappear. And they don't care how they make them disappear. They just don't want them downtown where the tourists are, or in certain other parts of the city. They don't want them visible. Because Asheville is touted as this "progressive" town, this "quirky, fun, progressive town" that people can come visit and so they care very much for the way that they look. If people see other humans living on the streets, struggling, that makes the city look, in their eyes, that makes them look crappy. And they are very concerned about that image. And it's 100% all about that they do not care what happens to these people. Honestly, if they were all to die tomorrow, I think they would be fine with that. Because they just want them gone. They don't care how it happens, they just want them gone.

**TFSR: Absolutely.**

**N:** I also just wanted to add a little something about the attack on mutual aid. It made me think about how the attempt to ban food sharing, as well as the parks ban, I just think about, the progression of how that's been going, and the folks that I know who have been -- specifically, the way I was able to show up is through streetside and attempting to be consistent and making connection with folks. It's through food sharing! That's literally how I was able to be introduced to that, and fucking start my connection with people.

And now I know folks who, because of the state and because of APD and the city -- Asheville Police Department and the city -- it's now constant threats and fears of people wanting to share food and make connection. Which is fucking rad! It's just, just that in itself is dangerous and amazing and awesome and caring. Just thinking how people that I know that love and do that so much and put so much heart into that, can't now because of these threats and because of APD and because of the city consistently stabbing people with all this stuff.

**E:** Yeah, I personally am not able to go to streetside anymore. That was one of the first ways that I was introduced to mutual aid was streetside, and I love streetside and I miss it. And I am the main person that earns money in my household. So, one of the conditions of my release is that I can't go back to Aston Park, which is the park where we do a lot of food sharing. If I were to be incarcerated for any period of time, there's a good likelihood that I would lose my job and potentially lose my license as a veterinary technician. I can't run that risk because I could lose my home. So I haven't been able to do something that I really like because of all this.

**TFSR:** Yeah, thank you so much for giving voice to how this entire situation is impacting your lives both personally and politically. It's extremely disruptive. It sounds tedious and frightening, which is a really shitty combination. Is there anything more to say about this topic? Like how you have seen these charges, like impact the work around town?

**N:** Yeah, the last things I'm thinking of is, though these charges are fucked and it is so stressful and it's taking such a toll, it has, as we've seen, definitely taken an impact on folks who are able to show up and do this work. You know, because it's caring. It's definitely made an impact because there are folks, like Elsa said, who can no longer show up because it literally

runs the risk of their livelihood. And also from what I've seen from these charges, from the impacts and effects in the community, are a lot of people making efforts to connect more in the broader sense of folks who are doing other work in Asheville.

So I think a lot about how, since the attempt at banning food sharing, folks have also been meeting up with faith leaders who also do like shit ton of work in the community. That's another connection that people have been making or have had, and just really have been pouring into that. We've also garnered a lot of support, and being new to this movement, I've been like, "wow, there's actually a shit ton of people who are really, really down for this" as they should be. And, though, it sucks that I am witnessing this through this way. Because facing this repression, I am very excited about how much more I can, myself and others, can deep dive into the work of being stronger together.

**E:** Yeah, I would agree, absolutely. And say that there have been people that have reached out to the defendants and said, like, "what can we do? This is so messed up, how can we get involved?" So it's kind of amazing how, in some ways, this has helped us grow our community. And there has been more awareness brought to this issue, which is the exact opposite of I think what the state had hoped for.

**TFSR:** That is really, really great to hear. I love that there has been a lot of support from the faith community. What kinds of support that y'all are seeking from listeners, like, how can folk help support you? Are you asking for anything specifically?

**A:** Yeah, I think one thing that I just really want to name in all of this is that this has been really heavy, and it's prevented folks from showing up in the ways that they have been showing up, but it doesn't mean that we're going to stop showing up. And mutual aid and like, the work that we're doing is something that is going to shift and change and keep going because all of us are here, because we believe in a different world. And we're all trying to build something. So we're not going to go away, we're just going to change the way that we're doing things.

And I think like the number one ask that we've been having in all of this is for folks to show up, and be part of this, be part of this building work that we're trying to do, and come out and meet your neighbors and share space with your neighbors and share food with your neighbors, get

to know one another. Start to continue to deepen these networks of people supporting one another, and just knowing people. And yeah, just keep fucking showing up. That's all we can really do. That's why we're here.

**E:** We also have a website and we are trying to raise funds. And some folks aren't completely satisfied with their [legal] representation. And like, you know, most of us don't really have the means to retain representation on our own so we're definitely looking for folks to be willing to maybe help us out a little bit in that way. And we've been working on trying to really spread the word about what's going on, to help further the issues of what is happening to unhoused communities, and try to pressure our local government, and the people in power in general, trying to pressure and elevate these issues. So that's really important, too, is people elevating these issues in their own spheres and having these conversations about what needs to happen, how they can be there in supportive ways for their own communities.

**TFSR: I love that. What is your website and how can people read your solidarity statement? And how can people keep up with what's going on for y'all?**

**N:** Yeah, so our website is [avlsolidarity.NoBlogs.org](http://avlsolidarity.NoBlogs.org). and our Venmo is @AVLDefendantFund. Also for ongoing mutual aid work, folks are totally encouraged to donate to Asheville Survival Program, that's @AVLsurvival for Venmo. And then to resist future Movement repression is Blue Ridge Anarchist Black Cross, you know, as well there's Asheville for Justice, who does direct fund distribution. And to what you had asked earlier about what support asks, also for people to keep talking about this, they can see our updates on [Ashevillesolidarity.NoBlogs.org](http://Ashevillesolidarity.NoBlogs.org), as well as Asheville Survival Program's Instagram. So keep talking about it, please keep talking about it. Please keep updated with us, you can send us comments and little cute notes on our website! [laughs] Or if you have something to offer or support in any kind of way, or whatever that looks like, please, creativity is everything! Please reach out.

And also, back to what Ant was saying, please show up, please keep showing up. I mean, this is what's going to happen, this fucking sucks, and mutual aid is going to be attacked. But we're getting through this together. And that's how we will get through it. And so I'm only scared because of the state, like the state has brought this fear. But I'm gonna

keep going. Like this is the only way, is to keep persevering and showing up. Also, if you got gear, please give us gear! Give Asheville Survival Program gear: tents, sleeping bags...I mean, that's distributed every single week directly to people living on the streets. Give money.

**TFSR:** I love that so much. I think it's no small feat to approach moments of state repression with "yes, this sucks, but like we're still going to keep showing up". And I think that that takes a lot, you know, and I just want to appreciate that so much, and name that as well. And we'll link all of those sites that you mentioned with the Venmo's and the websites and everything in our show notes. So those are all of the questions that I had scripted up. Thank you all so much for taking the time to have this chat. It's been a real pleasure to get to sit down with you all and listen to what you had to say. Is there anything that we missed in this interview that you want to speak about in closing, or anything like that?

**E:** Thank you so much for just helping us elevate these issues and having this conversation. It was really, really awesome.

**A:** Yeah, I want to echo that. Thank you for taking the time to let us talk. Appreciate it a lot. I just want to say I would encourage anyone who is curious about any of this to research the sanctuary camp-related things that have been going on around the country. There have been cities that have been making it happen, and making it work and building this infrastructure, which is super cool. And I would encourage folks to do the research on that. And just, yeah, continuously encourage folks to hang in there and, you know, be in solidarity with one another and remember that there's something better out there for all of us.

**N:** And thank you for having this interview with us. Also this has been going for like, oh my god, I don't even know how many fucking months it's been, four plus months, more! And how ridiculous this all is, and how much fucking money is being wasted on us right now [cracking up] to show up to court every single month to have these like... I don't think we talked about it, but we had a parks ban appeal meeting, which was ridiculous. Also just a shit ton of money being wasted every single time they talk about us, show us and interact with us. While those, literally a fraction of that could be used for hygiene infrastructure in parks, public restrooms,



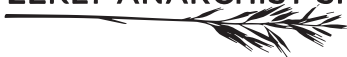
hand washing stations. Did they open up any of those public restrooms again? I don't know, not sure.

Also, that district attorney Todd Williams can drop our charges. Drop our charges Todd Williams, you can do it! Any day now!

**TFSR: Yeah, we're waiting on you, Todd. Come on. Step up.**

# THE *Final* Straw

A WEEKLY ANARCHIST SHOW



The Final Straw is a weekly anarchist and anti-authoritarian radio show bringing you voices and ideas from struggle around the world.

You can send us letters at:

**The Final Straw Radio**

**PO Box 6004**

**Asheville, NC 28816**

**USA**

Email us at:

**[thefinalstrawradio@riseup.net](mailto:thefinalstrawradio@riseup.net)**

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To hear our past shows for free, visit:

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